

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03283 161047Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OES-07 ERDA-05 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 NRC-05 FEA-01 IO-13 /124 W

-----087321 161125Z /20

R 160845Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7458

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSEMJAJR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3283

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS; PINS, MARR, NG, CD

SUBJECT: KOUNTCHE'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON CHAD-LIBYA,  
WESTERN SAHAR, AND REGIONAL DEFENSE PACT

REF: NIAMEY 2914 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DAY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S DEPARTURE ON  
VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIE, SAHEL DAILY NEWSPAPER (GOVT-CONTROLLED)  
CARRIED TWO FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES COVERING RECENT STATEMENTS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 03283 161047Z

KOUNTCHE HAS MAE TO THE FOREIGN PRESS. THESE MENTIONED  
POSSIBLE ROLE FOR NIGER IN CHAD-LIBYA DISPUTE, REINTERATED  
CALL FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF WESTERN SAHARAN PEOPLE, AND  
POINTEDLY REJECTED PARTICIPATION BY NIGER IN ANY REGIONAL  
DEFENSE GROUPING. END SUMMARY.

1. JULY 13 SAHEL NDUVPER CARRIED TWO ARTICLES WHICH CITED

RECENT POLICY STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE ON CHAD-LIBYA CONFRONTATION AND WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM. THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN OUT OF COUNTRY SINCE TUESDAY ON VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. THE SAUDI TRIP HAS HAD LOW-PROFILE IN LOCAL PRESS AND IS REFERRED TO ONLY AS VISIT OF FRIENDSHIP, NOT OFFICIAL VISIT.

2.CHAD: FIRST ARTICLE COVERED KOUNTCHE'S BRIEF STOP IN NDJAMENA JULY 12 ON COURSE FOR JIDDAH, WHICH INCLUDED ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MALLOUM. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE KOUNTCHE MADE SHORT DECLARATION TO CHADIAN PRESS THAT NIGER WAS WILLING TO INTERVENE QUOTE VERY DISCRETELY UNQUOTE TO RESOLVE CHADIAN AND LIBYAN DIFFERENCES. HE WENT ON TO SAY QUOTE STABILITY IN OUR SUB-REGION IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL AND WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT PEACE PREVAILS UNQUOTE.

3. WESTERN SAHARA: SECOND ARTICLE REFERRED TO RECENT INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT GRANTED TO ALGERIAN NEWSPAPER EL MOUDJAHID. EVOKING WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEMS, SAHEL ARTICLES SAID KOUNTCHE HAD REINTERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF SHARAN PEOPLE: QUOTE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SAHARAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE OR LIBERATION AGAINST SPANISH COLONIALISM.7\$ ,8&34 #- #3)\$ 5473 59 5HIS PRINCIPLE UNQUOTE. IN SAHEL ARTICLE, KOUNTCHE WAS ALSO QUOTED AS TURNING DOWN IDEA OF MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT OF ANY VARIETY--QUOTE NIGER HAS REJECTED THIS IN ORDER TO HONOR WHAT WE REGARD AS OUR SOVEREIGNTY, TO RESPECT THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTER OF NON-ALIGNMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NIAMEY 03283 161047Z

AND ABOVE ALL, TO EMPHASIZE TO OUR PEOPLE THAT IN CASE OF AGGRESSION, IT WILL BE UP TO US TO DEFEND OURSELVES BEFORE WAITING FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE'S STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF WESTERN SAHARA PEOPLE REFLECTS NO REAL SHIFT IN GON POSITION-- IT SIMPLY REINTERATES FORMER STATEMENTS. YET STRONG LANGUAGE USED IN REJECTING IDEA OF REGIONAL DEFENSE AGREEMENTS IS FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE MATTER. WITHOUT TEXT OF EL MOUDJAHID INTERVIEW, IT IS DIFFICULT TO WEIGH FULL IMPACT OF KOUNTCHE'S REMARKS. ON ONE HAND GON MAY ONLY BE PREFERRING TO AVOID PUBLIC ADHERENCE TO CEAO DEFENSE PACT AT THIS POINT. ALTERNATIVELY EL MOUDJAHID ARTICLE COULD CONFIRM OUR DOUBTS ALREADY REPORTED AS TO NIGER'S EXACT COMMITMENT TO CEAO DEFENSE PACT. (REFTEL). IN PAST, GON HAS BEEN KNOWN TO MAKE IMPORTANT DISTINCTION BETWEEN SIGNING AGREEMENTS AND RATIFYING THEM AT LATER DATE. IF THIS TRUE, NEW HEAD OF CEAO DEFENSE PACT, LT. COL. TAVARES DA SOUZA MAY RUN INTO SNAGS ON DETAILS OF TREATY DURING UPCOMING VISIT HERE. FOR ALGIERS: WOULD APPRECIATE AIR-POUCHING TEXT OF EL MOUDJAHID INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT AS AVAILABLE. JAMES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, SELFDETERMINATION, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NIAEMEY03283  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770254-0043  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NIAEMEY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770750/aaaabrdl.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c506366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 NIAEMEY 2914  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1841304  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KOUNTCHE'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON CHAD-LIBYA, WESTERN SAHAR, AND REGIONAL DEFENSE PACT  
**TAGS:** PINS, MARR, NG, CD, LY, (KOUNTCHE, SEYNI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c506366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009